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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Pednault, E.

Serial No.: 09/106,784

Filed: June 29, 1998



Group Art Unit: 2763

Examiner: Broda, S.

For: MECHANISM FOR CONSTRUCTING PREDICTIVE MODELS THAT ALLOW INPUTS TO HAVE MISSING VALUES

Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 2, 2000, please consider the following:

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20, all the claims presently pending in the application, stand rejected only under 35 U.S.C. §101 informalities. There are no prior art rejections. Applicant again gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's earlier indication that claims 1-2 (and presumably claims 3-20) would be allowable if the above-mentioned §101 rejection is overcome.

The §101 rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the following discussion, and for the reason that the claimed invention indeed defines statutory subject matter under §101. Thus, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Entry of this §1.116 Response is proper, since such a response does not raise a new issue requiring a further search and/or consideration by the Examiner.

**I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION**

Applicant's invention, as disclosed and claimed, is a program storage device (e.g., diskette, hard drive, optical disk, etc. as is commonly known to one of ordinary skill in the art) for storing method steps of a program.